

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 16257 161254Z
ACTION EURE-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SY-05 SYE-00 MCT-02 COME-00 ACDA-12
USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05
/091 W

-----067610 161455Z /43

P 161249Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2858
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
USDOCSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMCONSUL BARCELONA POUCH
AMCONSUL BILBAO POUCH
AMCONSUL SEVILLE POUCH

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USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF; USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SP
SUBJECT: TERRORISM UPDATE

REF: MADRID 16131

1. L OU - ENTIRE TEXT

2. THE KIDNAPPING OF UCD INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY
JAVIER RUPEREZ (REFTEL AND PREVIOUS), ABOUT WHICH
THERE IS NO NEW HARD INFORMATION, HAS PARTIALLY
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PAGE 02 MADRID 16257 161254Z

OBSCURED THE FACT THAT A NUMBER OF OTHER TERRORIST
ACTS ALSO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN RECENT DAYS. IN FACT,
THERE HAS BEEN SUCH A RECRUDESCENCE OF ATTACKS
IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY THAT SOME OBSERVERS HAVE NOW
LABELLED IT "YET ANOTHER ETA OFFENSIVE." THERE
FOLLOWS A RUN-DOWN OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF THESE
ASSAULTS.

3. ARMY LTCOL GUNNED DOWN IN SAN SEBASTIAN. LTCOL TOMAS LOPEZ DE DIEGO WAS MACHINEGUNNED AS HE LEFT HIS HOME IN SAN SEBASTIAN ON NOVEMBER 15. THE ATTACK HAS NOT BEEN CLAIMED BUT IT HAS ALL THE EARMARKS OF AN ETA JOB. LOCAL PSOE AND PCE LEADERS LED A SILENT DEMONSTRATION OF SOME 500 PEOPLE THROUGH DOWNTOWN SAN SEBASTIAN LATE ON NOVEMBER 15, TO PROTEST AGAINST THIS VIOLENCE. LOPEZ DE DIEGO CONTINUES IN VERY GRAVE CONDITION IN A SAN SEBASTIAN HOSPITAL.

4. FORESTRY GUARD SLAIN IN OYARZUN. FORESTRY GUARD (GUARDA FORESTAL) FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ ESPINOLA WAS GUNNED DOWN NOVEMBER 12 IN A BAR IN OYARZUN, GUIPUZCOA. ETA'S MILITARY WING HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SLAYING OF RODRIGUEZ, WHO IS SAID TO HAVE HAD "RIGHTIST TENDENCIES."

5. TWO CIVIL GUARDS WOUNDED IN ALAVA. TWO CIVIL GUARDS WERE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED WHEN THEIR BARRACKS/ HEADQUARTERS IN SALVATIERRA (ALAVA) WAS MACHINE-GUNNED DURING THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 11. ETA/M ALSO HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ATTACK. AT A ROADBLOCK SET UP JUST ACROSS THE BORDER IN THE PROVINCE OF NAVARRE AFTER THE ATTACK, AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 16257 161254Z

HERRI BATASUNA CITY COUNCILMAN FOR NAVARRE, MIGUEL ARREGUI, WAS SLAIN BY POLICE WHEN THE CAR IN WHICH HE WAS TRAVELING SPED PAST THE CHECKPOINT. THERE APPARENTLY WAS NO CONNECTION, HOWEVER, BETWEEN ARREGUI AND THE SALVATIERRA SHOOTING.

6. SANTANDER REPAIR FACILITY ATTACKED. ON THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 11 A SQUAD OF TERRORISTS GAINED ENTRY TO THE INSTALLATIONS OF THE FIRM "EQUIPOS NUCLEARES" IN SANTANDER. THEY BLEW UP PART OF THE FIRM'S REPAIR FACILITIES, BUT APPARENTLY MISSED WHAT THEY HAD COME AFTER -- THE DAMAGED GENERATOR FROM THE LEMONIZ NUCLEAR PLANT CONSTRUCTION SITE NEAR BILBAO, WHICH EQUIPOS NUCLEARES WAS REPAIRING. NO ONE WAS INJURED IN THE ASSAULT, WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY ETA/PM (NO ONE HAS YET CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY).

7. COMMENT: THE SAN SEBASTIAN AND SALVATIERRA ATTACKS AND THE OYARZUN SLAYING ARE ETA/M'S WAY OF DENYING THAT THE GUERNICA AUTONOMY STATUTE HAS CHANGED ANYTHING. AS FOR ETA/PM, IT HAS MADE

IT CLEAR THAT, WHILE THE STATUTE IS A STEP FORWARD,
"ARMED STRUGGLE" AND "POPULAR STRUGGLE" STILL
GO HAND-IN-HAND. BARBOUR

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